

Amendments to the Claims

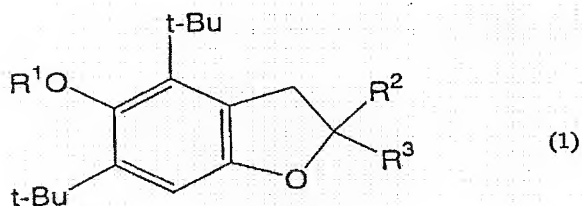
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~prevention and/or~~ treatment of fatty liver or hepatic disease, comprising administering a compound of the formula (1):

[Chemical Formula 3]



where

R¹ is a hydrogen atom, an acyl group, or an arylalkoxycarbonyl group; and

R² and R³ are each independently a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, or R² and R³ may jointly form a cycloalkyl group,

to a patient in need of such prevention and/or treatment.

18. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom.

19. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein R² and R³ are each an unsubstituted alkyl group.

20. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein the unsubstituted alkyl group is an n-butyl group, an n-pentyl group, an n-hexyl group, or an n-heptyl group.

21. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein the compound of the formula (1) is 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-butyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-pentyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-hexyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, or 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-heptyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.

22. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein the compound of the formula (1) is 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-pentyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.

23. (Currently Amended) The method~~composition~~ according to claim 17, wherein the prevention and/or treatment of hepatic disease are or is ascribed to leakage of hepatic enzymes.

24. (Currently Amended) The method~~composition~~ according to claim 17, wherein the fatty liver is nonalcoholic fatty liver.

25. (Currently Amended) The method~~composition~~ according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is hepatic disease associated with the fatty liver.

26. (Currently Amended) The method~~composition~~ according to claim 17, wherein the fatty liver is nonalcoholic fatty liver.

27. (Currently Amended) The method~~composition~~ according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is bacterial or chemical-induced hepatic function disorder.

28. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~
according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is chronic
or acute hepatitis.

29. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~
according to claim 17, wherein the hepatitis is viral.

30. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~
according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is hepatic
cirrhosis.

31. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~
according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is liver
cancer.